

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00508 030835Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 SNM-02 SP-02 INR-05

CIAE-00 IO-06 PA-01 /042 W

-----005610 030943Z /11

R 030720Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9232

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0508

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: UNFDAC PROGRAM IN LAOS: PERSONNEL

1. THE CHARGE CALLED ON UNDP RESREP ASPLUND MAY 2 TO TELL HIM THAT THE U.S. HAD NO OFFICIAL VIEW ON THE EXPULSION OF UNFDAC'S ARNAUD SINCE IT WAS A MATTER BETWEEN THE LPDR AND THE UN. ASPLUND WAS TOLD UNOFFICIALLY, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD NO OBJECTION TO ARNAUD'S DEPARTURE. (ASPLUND HAD BEEN AWAY IN COLOMBO FOR A REGIONAL RESREPS' MEETING AND WAS NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL MAY 2.

2. ASPLUND SAID THAT ARNAUD WAS LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT THE LAO WERE TRYING TO CLOSE DOWN THE ENTIRE UNFDAC OPERATION IN LAOS. THE CHARGE SAID THAT IF THIS IN FACT WAS THE CASE, AND NOT SIMPLY AN EFFORT BY ARNAUD TO LINK HIS PERSONAL FATE TO THE FUTURE OF UNFDAC
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00508 030835Z

AS AN INSTITUTION, THEN HE (THE CHARGE) WOULD WANT TO SEEK FURTHER COMMENT OR INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: WE WILL TRY TO FIND OUT WHETHER UNFDAC'S PRESENCE AS AN INSTITUTION IN LAOS IS IN FACT THREATENED OR WHETHER THIS IS SIMPLY A PLOY BY ARNAUD TO SAVE HIMSELF. IN THE MEANTIME, THE DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA

MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHAT OUR POSITION SHOULD BE. AS
WE SEE IT, THE BEST OUTCOME WOULD BE FOR UNFDAC TO
CONTINUE HERE BUT UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT. OUR PRELIMINARY
REACTION IS THAT THE BEST WAY TO BRING THIS ABOUT WOULD BE
TO WORK THROUGH THE SWEDES AND THE UN, WITH THE U.S.
STAYING IN THE BACKGROUND.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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